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The first issue of O Articulador da Greve, organ of the recently-organized Central Strike Commission of Railroad Workers (which is composed of workers on the Sorocabana and Central Railroads) was published in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in February 1950. It contains instructions to workers for preparing and waging strikes. There follows a translation of the items of interest from this issue:

CPYRGHT

1. WHAT OUR PAPER IS

Railroad Worker Comrades:

The strike on the Central do Brasil and on the Sorocabana taught us much, but the main thing we learned is that without solidarity it is impossible to be victorious. The strike on the Central in Minas was unsuccessful, as there was no general strike of railroad workers of the Central in Sao Paulo. The strike of Botucatu failed, as there was no strike on the Barra Funda, Sorocabana, and Santos.

We arrived at the conclusion that it is necessary to COORDINATE ALL STRIKE MOVEMENTS on the Sorocabana and Central to be successful.

The first thing we did was to form a Central Strike Commission composed of railroad worker comrades of the Sorocabana and the Central. This is to coordinate the strike and direct it to victory, as soon as the strike on the Sorocabana and on the Central is declared.

The second thing was to print this paper unifying the thought of railroad workers, and informing them what must be done to launch the strike. It is as if the Central Strike Commission were talking personally to each railroad worker through this paper.

Each railroad worker should show this paper to his comrades and hold small meetings to discuss duties. He should ask his comrades, "Are you doing something for the strike? If not, you must. Have you read the Articulader de Greve? If not, you must."

Only with a general strike of railroad workers can we obtain the Christmas bonus, abolition of fines, paid vacations, etc.

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CPYRGHT

2. IN CASE OF ARRESTS

Striking workers must demand the immediate liberation of arrested companions. Even if other demands have been met, they should not end the strike until the arrested ones are freed.

When arrests are made before the strike has broken out, it is necessary to strike immediately and demand the liberation of the prisoners.

3. TO ORGANIZE A STRIKE

A strike must be organized and there must be a directing group, which already exists in the Strike Commission which puts out this paper.

A strike commission must be organized on each railroad, at each place of work. It must be done rapidly on all reads.

Besides commissions, picket guards (piquetes) are necessary. These are of four types:

- a. Security pickets, composed of 10-15 men or women and children to warn strikers on police manoeuvres and Army activity. The pickets' task is to keep strikers from being taken, beat the armed police and soldiers (tiras) when possible, and appeal for solidarity to the soldiers of the Public Force and of the Army, to the Firemen and the Guarda Civil, showing that they are also children of the people, of working class, and that they are exploited by and are enemies of the officers and government of Dutra and Ademar, etc. Soldiers should not fire on the people. The security picket is armed with sticks, iron rods, stones, etc.
- b. Pickets against strike breakers (fura-greves) are formed on the same basis with 10-15 men, women, and children having the task of beating the strike breakers and not letting them operate.
- c. Food pickets composed of 10-15 strikers, men, women and children to prepare and distribute food, to take care of hygiene, cleanliness, etc.
- d. Solidarity pickets are composed of 10-15 men and children and are charged with the collection of money, clothes, merchandise, objects of first necessity for the strikers, medicine. They provide medicines, take care of strikers' children, etc. Women should preferably belong to these solidarity pickets.

All these pickets are directed by central strike commissions which are to be formed in each city in the interior.

4. LONG LIVE THE STRIKE ON THE SOROCABANA

(Manifesto of February 1950 from Sorocabana Railroad Workers' Strike Commission calling for solidarity on the part of the workers on the Central, NOR, Mogiana, Araraquarense, EVM, Santos to Jundiai Railroads, who also are fighting the same fight against hunger, etc.)

5. HOW THE STRIKE SHOULD END

The strike should not be ended till comrades have in their hands a copy of this paper saying the strike has ended, brought by the members of the Strike Commission in person.

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CPYRGHT

6. OUT WITH SPIES AND TRAITORS

If we discover a spy or agent-provocateur in our midst we must expel him by force (with clubs).

7. ENGINEERS

We appeal to the engineers to unite with the movement.

The fines of Chafic on the Sorocabama fall directly on the engineers. To end this they ought to unite in a commission to present their claims and form a solid front with the firemen, office workers, and, in short, all railroad workers.

The engineers, firemen, shifters (manobradores), train watchmen, and carabinieri should not sleep at home as they did on the Santos to Jundiá in 1946 in Santos. That was the decisive factor in the victory because the police knocked on all the doors and found no one.

8. HOW TO ACT IN PRISON

Protest. If taken at work, a comrade should shout and call a meeting claiming he should not be arrested for trying to get more bread for his family. He should resist in every way possible, calling on his companions at work for help. They should help him free himself.

Once taken to DOPS, he should make no declaration except that holding him is illegal, should not sign any paper, not allow himself to be registered (fichado), not answer any questions on the strike, etc. The police is an enemy of the "class."

9. HOW PREPARE A RAILROAD WORKERS' STRIKE

- a. In each section of the office or depot, warehouse, and station, railroad workers should meet with their colleagues.
- b. A comrade with this paper in hand would open the meeting and ask that five comrades be elected to the commission of each office, warehouse, etc. If the office, etc., is divided into sections, a meeting should be held by each section, etc.
- c. These little commissions are the directorate of the strike in each section of work. Each commission president should seek out the other presidents and arrive at an understanding on the strike.
- d. Each commission is to prepare its section for the day of the strike and, on the day, announce it to them.
- e. The commissions should not stop work. They should keep in communication with the comrades, consulting them, hearing suggestions and making suggestions. The consultations and communications should primarily be handled at meetings.
- f. The commissions should not leave the place of work. There it is easier to assemble and discuss methods. It is a trench from which to resist the police.
- g. The strike should start when the railroad workers are at their place of work. Thus, an order to cease work can be given. All are together, where they can talk and plan more easily and rapidly.

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CPYRGHT

10. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SUNDAY

It is important to take advantage of Sunday in preparing for or during a strike. On that day we must distribute papers and bulletins, visit houses, hold meetings and discussions, and prepare the entire plan of action for Monday.

On Sunday we must work from dawn to dusk.

11. CAUTION ABOUT IMPERIALIST PRESS AND RADIO AND FAKE TELEGRAMS

During strikes the imperialist (sadia) press spreads lies and rumors and should not be believed. Only believe the "popular press." To aid in the work of newspaper correspondents of the people's papers and to aid the railroad workers to be enlightened now and during the strike, the Central Commission has provided for this paper, etc.

12. SOLIDARITY

O ARTICULADOR DA GREVE aims to coordinate the movement on the Sorocabana and Central now.

But we ask our comrades of the Paulista, of the Santos to Jundiai, of the NOB, of the Mogiana, of the Araraquarense, of the Red de Viçosa Mineira, and all other railroads of São Paulo to coordinate the movement with us on receipt of this paper.

Who can defeat the organized railroad workers? Count on the support of the weavers, CMTG workers, metal workers, stevedores, and all workers fighting for their rights.

13. MOBILIZATION OF WOMEN

Women should be mobilized to sit on railroad tracks and prevent the departure of trains. (In addition to other tasks mentioned above).

14. THE STRIKE ERROR IN BOTUCATU AND IN THE OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL

Cassio Ciampolini, lawyer for the Sorocabana, was allowed to speak at a strikers' meeting on 29 January and wasn't "unmasked" as a strike-breaker, etc.....

LONG LIVE THE FIGHT FOR PEACE!

EXPUL THE AMERICANS!

DOWN WITH THE SECURITY LAW!

HURRAH FOR THE GENERAL STRIKE OF RAILROAD WORKERS!